

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-20 are pending in the application. The Examiner allowed claims 1, 2, 5-9, and 15-19, and rejected claims 3, 4, 10-14, and 20. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Objections To Drawings

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to Figures 1-2, stating that these drawings should be designated by a legend such as "PRIOR ART."

Figures 1-2 have been amended to include the legend as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

In item 2 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 3-4, 10-14, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

Claim 3 of the present application recites:

A serial bus interface device having a function of automatically reconstructing a topology when the device is inserted or withdrawn during operation of a serial bus, comprising a physical layer circuit serving as a physical interface to which a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus.

Therefore, when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus, "a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned" to the serial bus interface device. As stated in the specification, for instance, on pages 16-17, this allows the single serial bus interface device to simulate a group of devices having a plurality of identification numbers connected to the serial bus. This allows analysis of the situation in which multiple devices are connected to the serial bus without actually constructing a system with the actual multiple devices connected thereto.

Regarding claims 3 and 20, the Examiner states:

AAPA teaches a serial bus interface device having a function of automatically reconstructing a topology when the device is inserted or withdrawn during operation of a serial bus (see figures 1-2 and pages 1-3 in the description of related art of the current

invention specification),

Comprising a physical layer circuit serving as a physical interface to which a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus (see figures 1-2 and page 2 in the description of related art of the current invention specification).

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection by the Examiner. The Examiner cites page 2 of the description of the related art, as well as figures 1-2, as support for AAPA disclosing "a physical layer circuit serving as a physical interface to which a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus." However, closer inspection reveals that neither the description nor the figures disclose this feature of claim 3.

Figure 1 illustrates a personal computer 101 connected to a digital camera 102 by an IEEE 1394 bus B. Before the connection of a conventional IEEE 1394 bus analyzer 100 to the IEEE 1393 bus B, the personal computer 101 has an ID number of 1, and the digital camera 102 has an ID number of 0. After the connection of the bus analyzer 100, the digital camera 102 continues to have the ID number of 0, but the bus analyzer 100 is then assigned the ID number of 1, and the personal computer 101 is assigned the ID number of 2. Similarly, in Figure 2 devices B through H are assigned different respective ID numbers after the insertion of the bus analyzer 100, which is again assigned the ID number of 1. In both of these figures, the bus analyzer 100 is assigned a single identification number.

The fact that the bus analyzer 100 is assigned a single identification number, rather than a plurality of identification numbers, is supported by pages 2-3 of the specification. "The IEEE 1394 serial bus reconstructs a bus topology, assigns a new ID (-1) to the bus analyzer 100 via a physical layer circuit, and recognizes the bus analyzer 100 as a device connected to the buses B1 and B2." Therefore, in the AAPA discussed in the specification of the present application, the IEEE 1394 bus analyzer is assigned a single identification number upon being connected to the IEEE 1394 bus.

Therefore, AAPA does not disclose the feature of "a physical layer circuit serving as a physical interface to which a plurality of identification numbers are simultaneously assigned when the serial bus interface device is connected to the serial bus." Accordingly, AAPA does not disclose every element of the Applicant's claim 1. In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every element of the claim (MPEP §2131). Therefore, since AAPA does not teach the features recited in independent claim 1, as stated above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over AAPA, and withdrawal of the

§102(b) rejection is earnestly and respectfully solicited. It is further submitted that the features of claim 3 are not obvious over the disclosure of AAPA.

Claims 4 and 10-14 depend from claim 3 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by AAPA. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4 and 10-14 also patentably distinguish over AAPA.

Claim 20 recites "assigning a plurality of identification numbers to a physical interface of the device simultaneously when the device is connected to the serial bus." Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 also patentably distinguishes over AAPA.

Summary

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

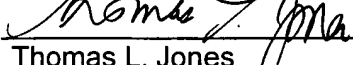
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: October 4, 2004

By: 
Thomas L. Jones
Registration No. 53,908

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501